8 Fixes For Your Windows License Will Expire Soon Error

October 30, 2021



This article is written to discuss one of the most annoying errors in Windows 10/8.1/7 i.e "Your Windows License will expire soon" error message.

Many Windows users face this frustrating problem when they are working on their systems or having fun such as watching movies, YouTube, playing games, etc. Having this error message that suddenly pops up in the middle of a work or entertainment session will surely have a horrible impact on Windows users.

So, we are here to discuss some possible methods to resolve this problem. Just keep reading the article and find out more details about this error and various counter-solutions.

Table of Contents

What Is/Are The Possible Reasons Behind This "Your Windows License Will Expire Soon" Error?

Microsoft has been doing successful business for over 3 decades since the release of the first version of Windows GUI. Although the popularity of their operating system is excellent, these operating system also comes with some bugs. Some of these bugs are very simple and don't affect the overall operation of the work system, but there are some bugs or errors that are very annoying.

One such bug or error in Windows 10/8.1/7 is the "Your Windows License will expire soon" message. This error covers most of the Windows users and because of the large popularity base of Windows OS around the globe makes the total number of affected users a tremendous number. What is/are the reasons that sustain this "Your Windows License will expire soon" bug or error? The following are some of the causes that are responsible for this error:

1. **Windows Updates.**

Most Windows Updates are free in nature and there are some update packages that are not meant for regular OS development rather they are meant for autonomous system updates. For this reason, purchasing an original Windows License is recommended so that users can get the benefits of Microsoft Windows Updates. Most users are using the older update version of Windows and are unable to update to a higher version.

2. Using Windows License with a limited or short time period(for example 180 days).
3. Rejected License Key.

Methods To Fix "Your Windows License Will Expire Soon" Error

Now that you know the general information about the Windows License and its bugs, here are 8 different methods to fix the "Your Windows License will expire soon" error:

1. **Restart The Windows Explorer**
2. **Reset The Windows Activation Timer**
3. **Modify the Group Policy**
4. **Get The Windows License Manager And Windows Update Services Disabled**
5. **Re-activate Windows Using Product Key**
6. **Modifying The Registry**
7. **Use The Windows Activation Troubleshoot**
8. **Reset your Windows PC**

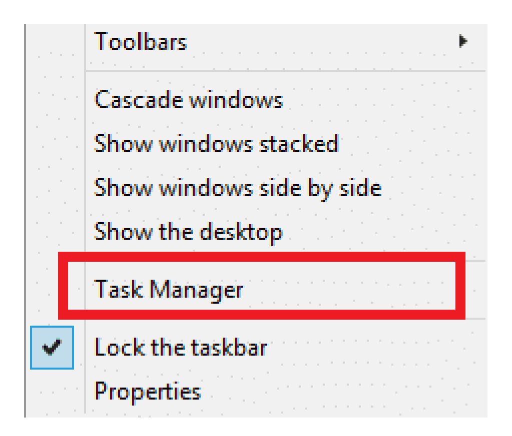
See also 4 Fixes For Error 0x80070005 Access Is Denied

Method 1- Restart The Windows Explorer Process

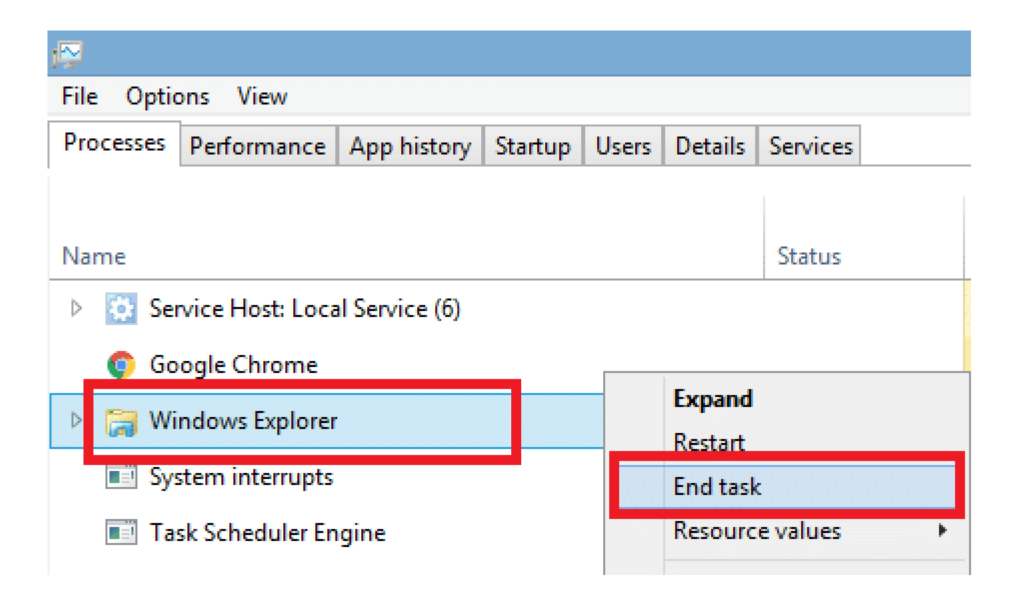
This is a simple solution to the "Your Windows license will expire soon". For users that face this bug or error when there is still plenty of time before the Windows License expires, this method can easily fix windows license errors.

Here is a step-by-step guide that you can follow and resolve the problem.

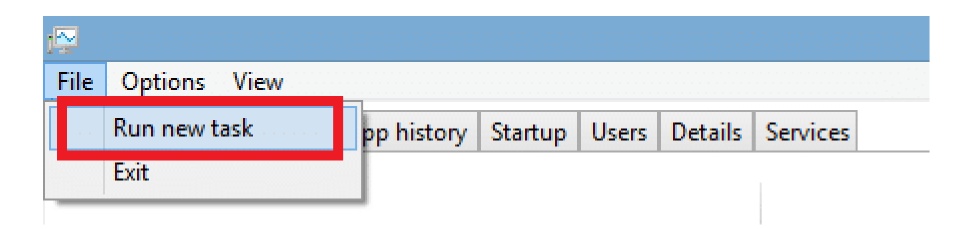
Step 1- Open the Task Manager. Right-click on the **Taskbar** and select the **Task Manager** option from the list or you can directly press **Ctrl + Alt + Esc** on your keyboard to open the Task Manager.



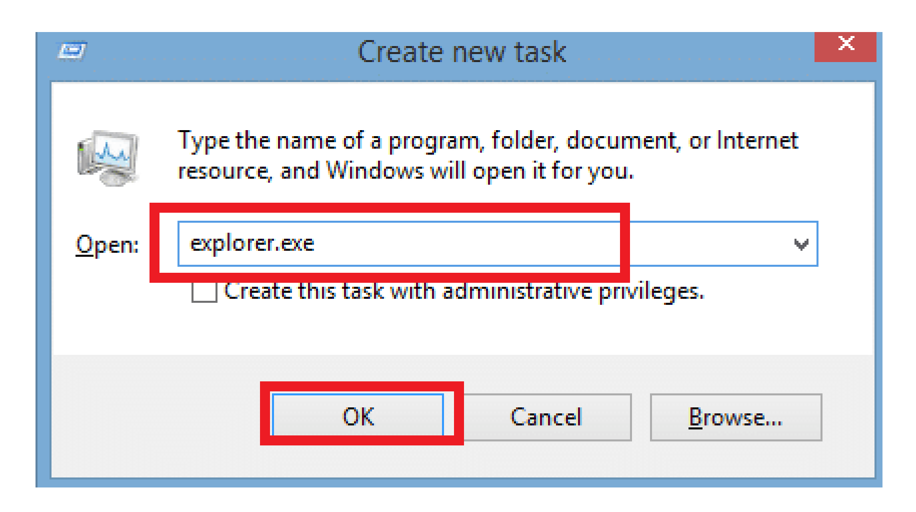
Step 2- In the Task Manager, you can find various tabs including Processes, performance, App history, Startup, Users, Details, services. Now in the **Processes** tab, right-click on the **Windows Explorer** and click on the **End task** option.



Step 3- In the uppermost there are three tabs namely File, Options and View. Click on **File** and select **Run New Task**.



Step 4- In the Create new task window, type "**explorer.exe**" in the Open text box and click **Ok**.



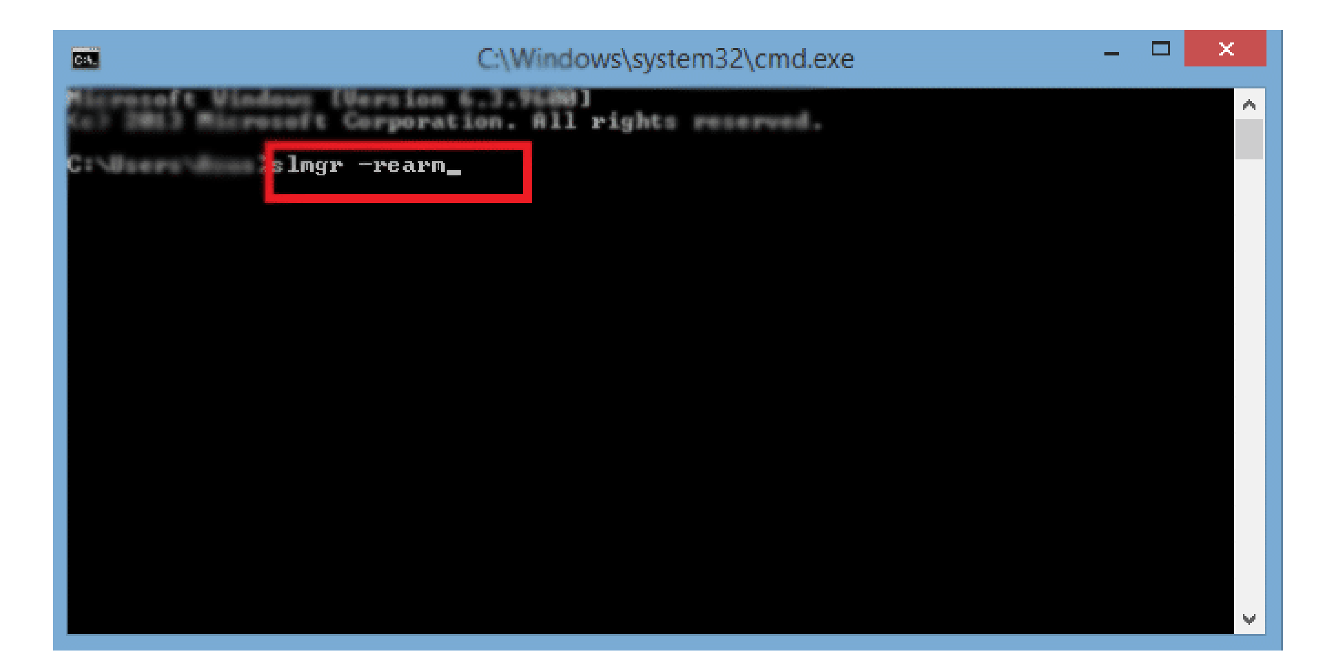
Now restart your computer and check if the method resolves the problematic message.

Method 2- Reset The Windows Activation Timer.

This method of resetting the Activation Timer will give an extra 30-Day time period expansion when the expiration date of Windows Trial or License is near. Moreover, it is only a temporary fix and it will only stop the "Your Windows License will expire soon" expiration message for 30 days only, and the number of times that a user can "rearm" is limited.

Step 1- Open the Command Prompt in Administrator Mode.

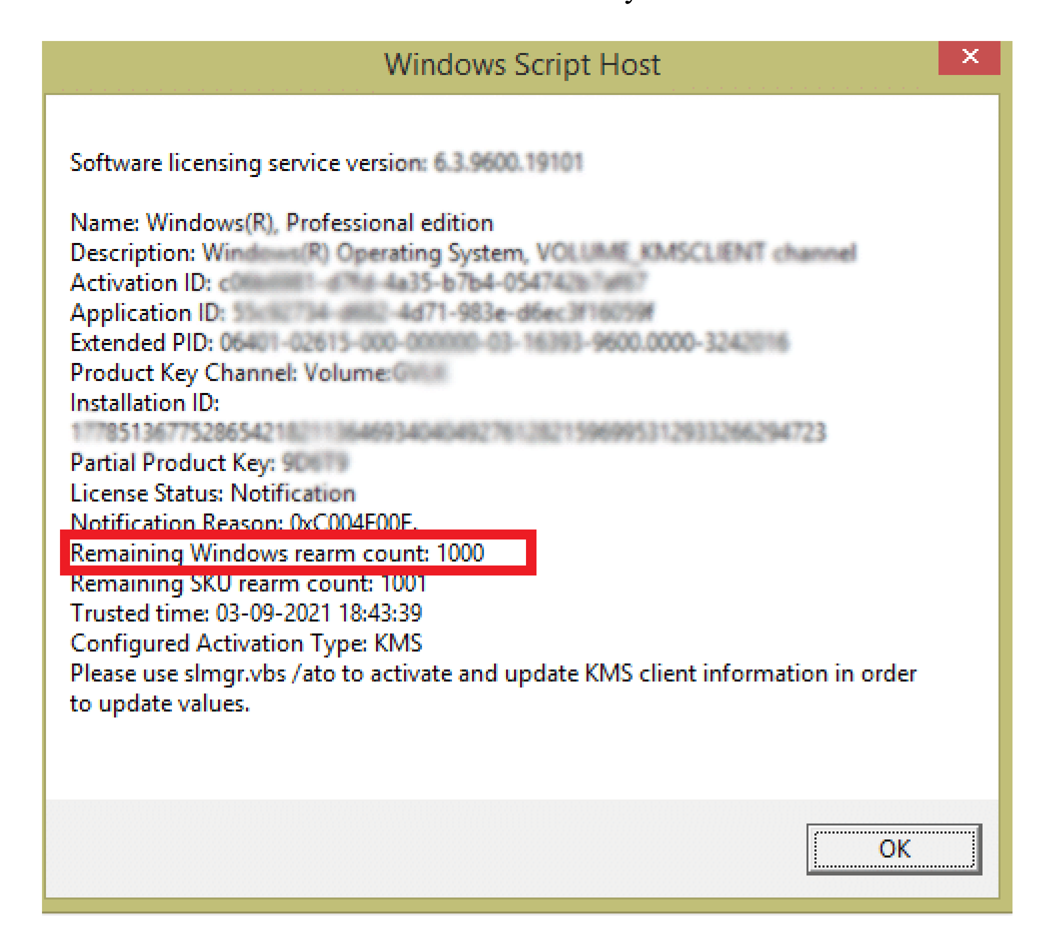
Step 2- After the Command Prompt opens, type "**slmgr -rearm**" and hit **Enter** key.



Step 3- Now close the command prompt window and restart your computer and check if the frequent activation notification has stopped or not.

The "slmgr -rearm" will only give a time period of only 30 days and the number of times that a user can "rearm" is limited. To know the total number of times that you can Reset the Activation timer execute the command "slmgr -dlv" in Command prompt.

Now a detailed report screen will be presented to you. Check the "Remaining Windows rearm count" row for the total number of times that you can rearm/extend the Windows Trial period.

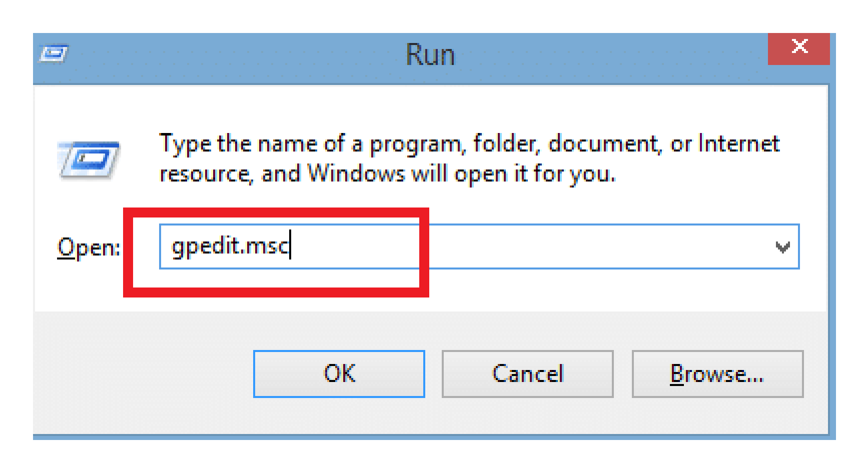


Method 3- Modify the Group Policy

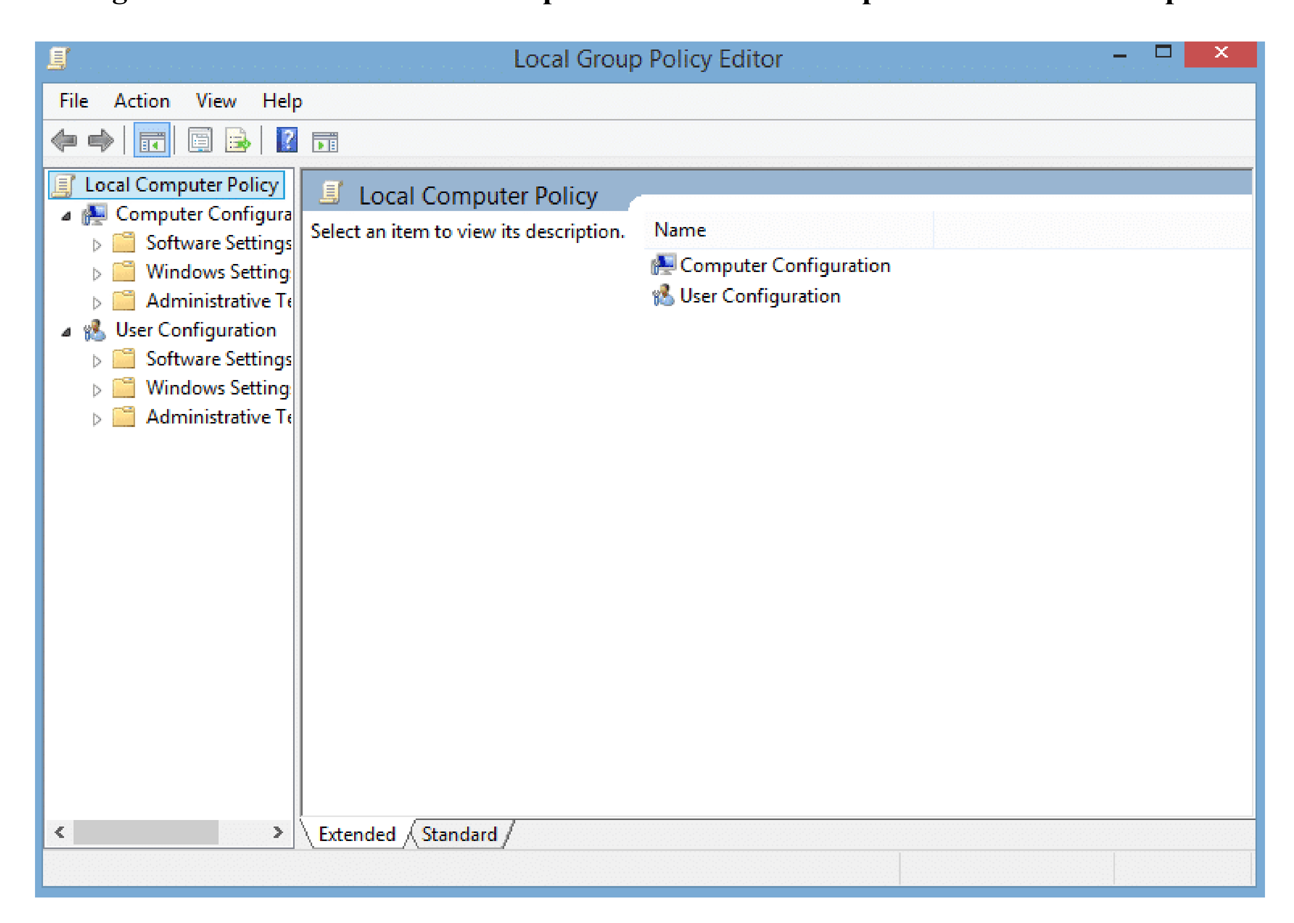
To fix the "Your Windows License will expire soon" error, you can use the method of changing Group Policy. To do this follow the given step-by-step guide.

Step 1- Open the Run dialog box. Press **Windows + R** on your keyboard.

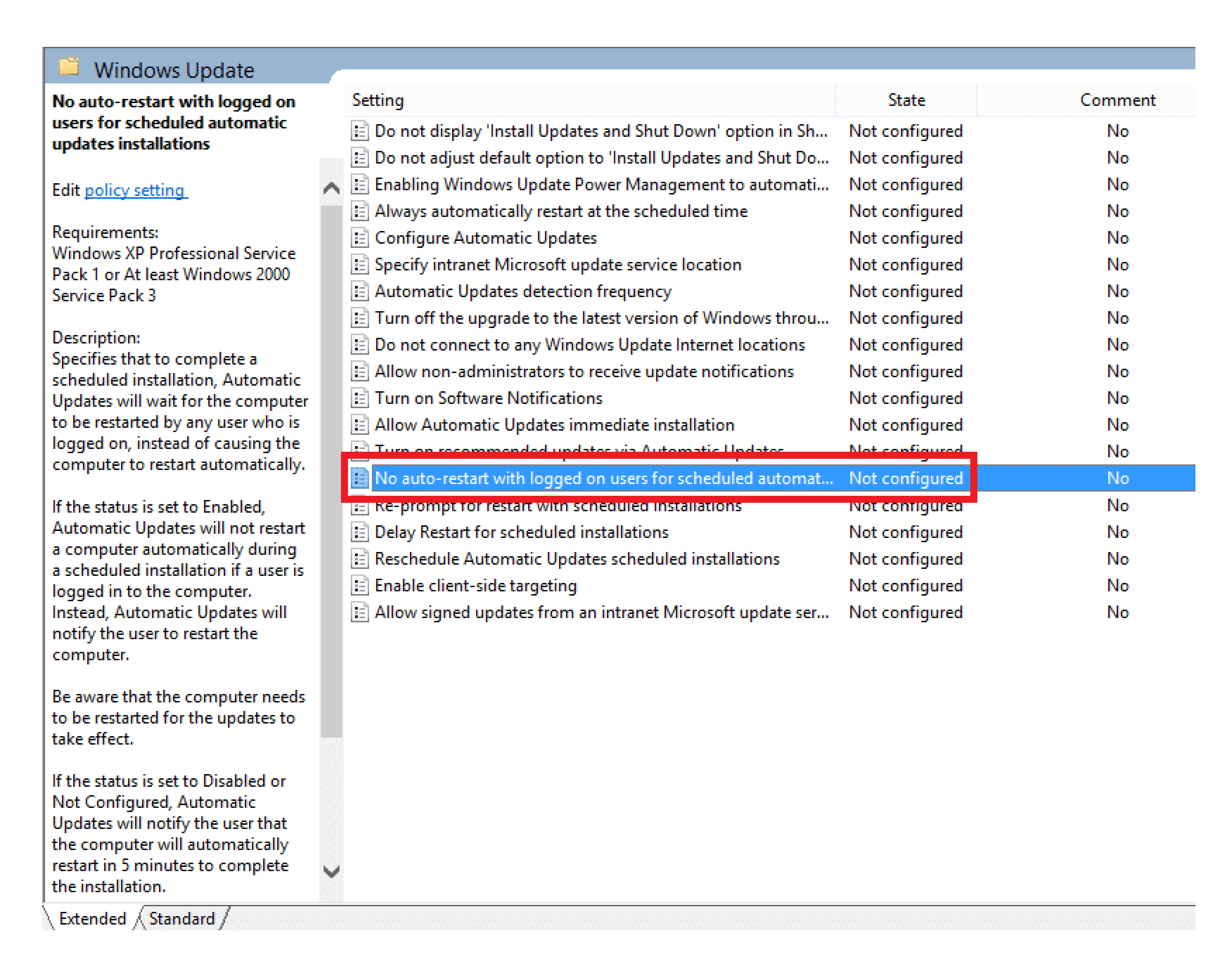
Step 2- Type "**gpedit.msc**' in the dialog box and click **Ok**.



Step 3- Now that the Local Group Policy Editor has opened, navigate to **Computer Configuration-> Administrative Templates-> Windows Components-> Windows Updates.**



Step 4- Now on the right side of the screen you can see various configurations settings. Search for a setting named: **No auto-restart with logged on users for scheduled automatic updates installations.**



Step 5- Double-click on it.

Step 6- A separate window will open after the previous step is completed. Now on the left side, you will find three options namely Not Configured, Enabled, and Disabled. Click on the **Enabled** option.

See also 7 Solutions to Fix Broken Registry Items in Windows

No auto-restart with logged on users for scheduled automatic updates installations

No auto-restart with logged on users for scheduled automatic updates installations

Previous Setting   Next Setting

Not Configured
Enabled
Disabled

Comment:

Supported on: Windows XP Professional Service Pack 1 or At least Windows 2000 Service Pack 3

Options:

Help:

Specifies that to complete a scheduled installation, Automatic Updates will wait for the computer to be restarted by any user who is logged on, instead of causing the computer to restart automatically.

If the status is set to Enabled, Automatic Updates will not restart a computer automatically during a scheduled installation if a user is logged in to the computer. Instead, Automatic Updates will notify the user to restart the computer.

Be aware that the computer needs to be restarted for the updates to take effect.

If the status is set to Disabled or Not Configured, Automatic Updates will notify the user that the computer will automatically restart in 5 minutes to complete the installation.

Note: This policy applies only when Automatic Updates is configured to perform scheduled installations of updates. If the

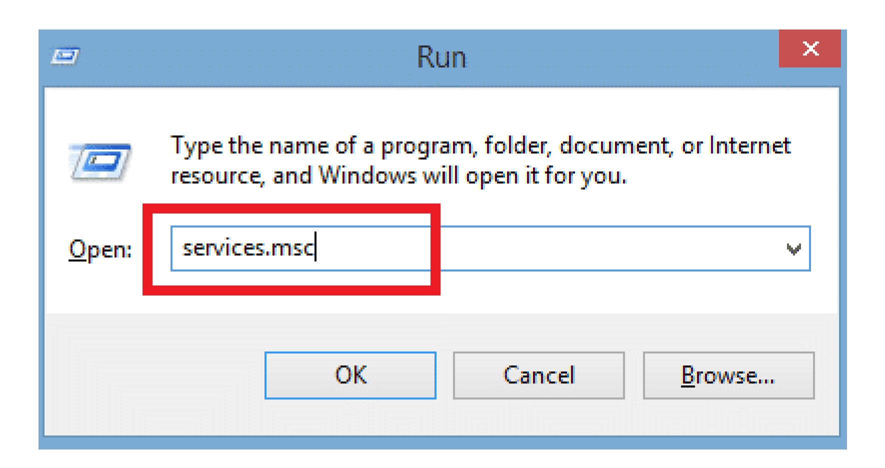
OK   Cancel   Apply

Step 7- Now click on **Apply** and then on **Ok**.

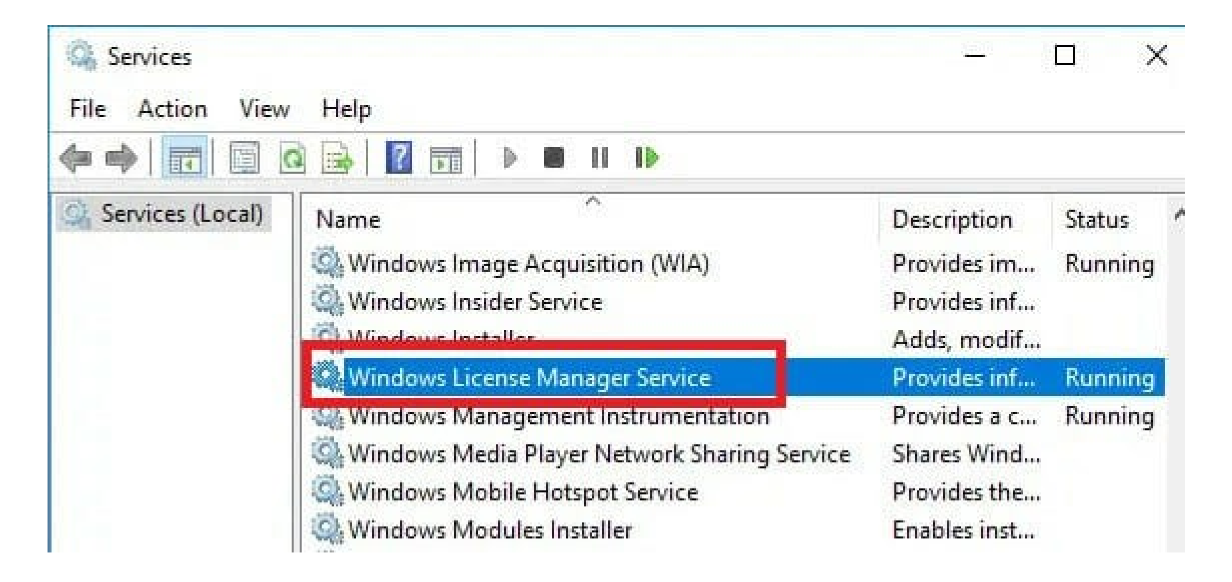
Method 4- Get The Windows License Management Service And Windows Update Services Disabled.

Step 1- Open the Run dialog box. Press **Windows + R** on your keyboard.

Step 2- Type "**services.msc**" and click on **Ok**.



Step 3- Now search for the service named **Windows License Manager Service**. **Double-click** on it to access its **Properties** window.



Step 4- In the Properties window, Press **Stop** if Running is shown in the **Service status section**.

Step 5- In the Startup type drop-down box, select **Disabled** and apply the changes that you have made.

Step 6- Now search for **Windows Update** service in the services list and double-click on it.

Services

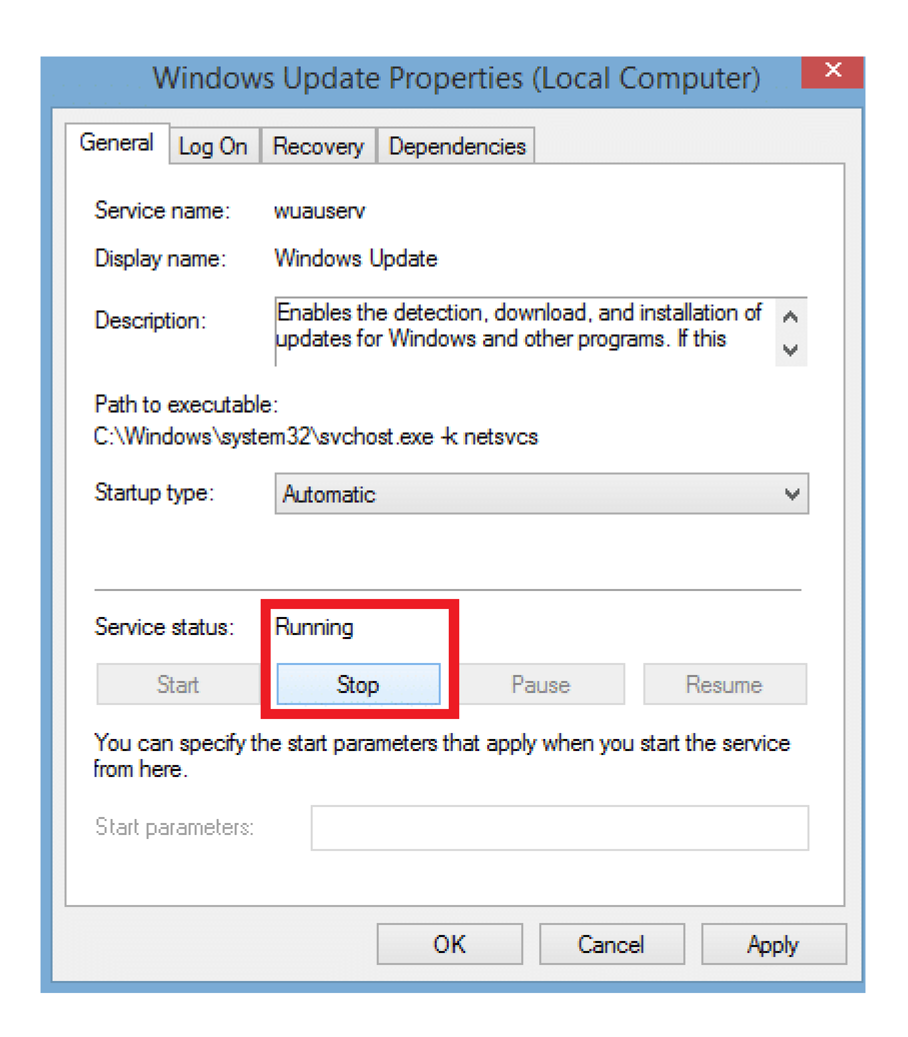
File Action View Help

Services (Local)

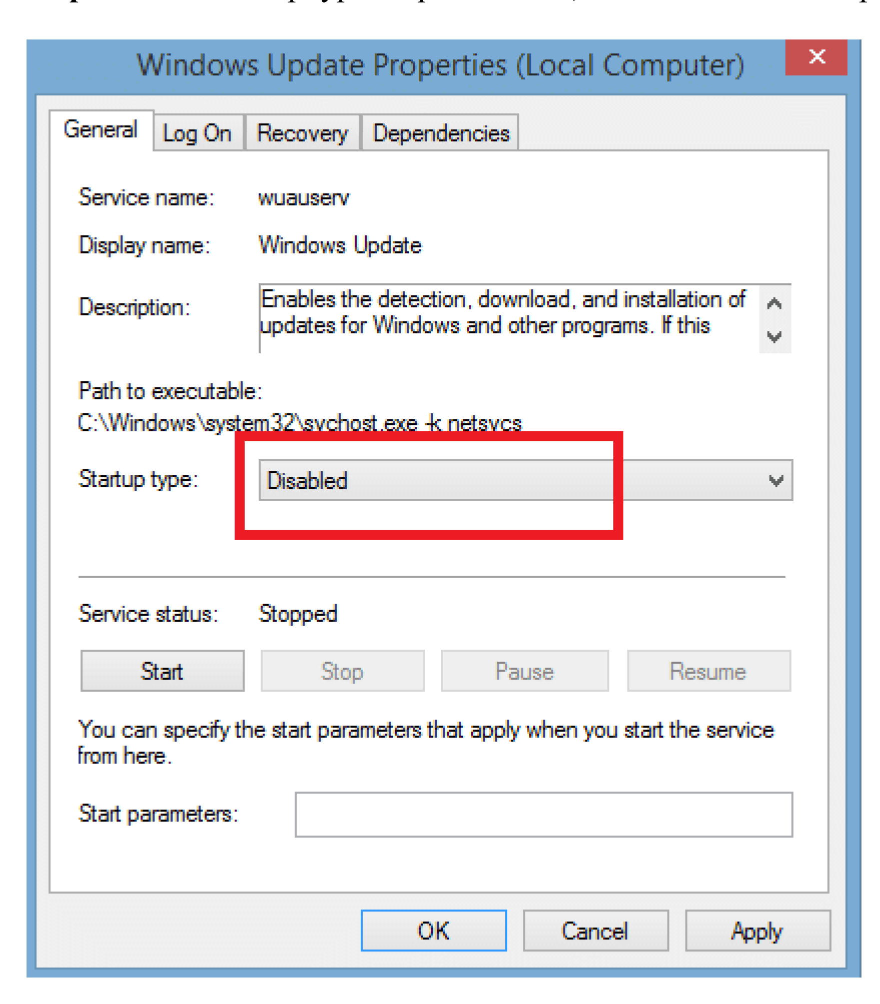
Name	Description
Windows Event Collector	This service manages persistent subscriptions to events from remote sou
Windows Event Log	This service manages events and event logs. It supports logging events, c
Windows Firewall	Windows Firewall helps protect your computer by preventing unauthoriz
Windows Font Cache Service	Optimizes performance of applications by caching commonly used font
Windows Image Acquisition (WIA)	Provides image acquisition services for scanners and cameras
Windows Installer	Adds, modifies, and removes applications provided as a Windows Installe
Windows Location Framework Service	This services monitors the current location of the system and manages g
Windows Management Instrumentation	Provides a common interface and object model to access management i
Windows Media Player Network Sharing Serv...	Shares Windows Media Player libraries to other networked players and m
Windows Modules Installer	Enables installation, modification, and removal of Windows updates and
Windows Remote Management (WS-Manag...	Windows Remote Management (WinRM) service implements the WS-Ma
Windows Search	Provides content indexing, property caching, and search results for files,
Windows Store Service (WSService)	Provides infrastructure support for Windows Store.This service is started
Windows Time	Maintains date and time synchronization on all clients and servers in the
Windows Update	Enables the detection, download, and installation of updates for Window
WinHTTP Web Proxy Auto-Discovery Service	WinHTTP implements the client HTTP stack and provides developers wit
Wired AutoConfig	The Wired AutoConfig (DOT3SVC) service is responsible for performing II
WLAN AutoConfig	The WLANSVC service provides the logic required to configure, discover,
WMI Performance Adapter	Provides performance library information from Windows Management Ir
Work Folders	This service syncs files with the Work Folders server, enabling you to use
Workstation	Creates and maintains client network connections to remote servers usin
WWAN AutoConfig	This service manages mobile broadband (GSM & CDMA) data card/emb

Extended Standard

Step 7- Click on **Stop** if Running is shown in the Service status section.



Step 8- In the Startup type drop-down box, select the **Disabled** option and apply the changes.



Step 9- Restart your computer and check if the "Your Windows License will expire soon" error has been resolved or not.

Method 5- Re-activate Windows Using Product Key

To get rid of the "Your Windows license will expire soon" error, you can try to reactivate Windows with the same product key. Also, this method will work if you have a valid license for your Windows OS and know the product key.

Step 1- Open the Run dialog box by pressing **Windows + R**, type "**cmd**" and click on the Ok button. It will open the Command Prompt on your computer.

Step 2- In the Command Prompt, type in the following command and hit **Enter** key:

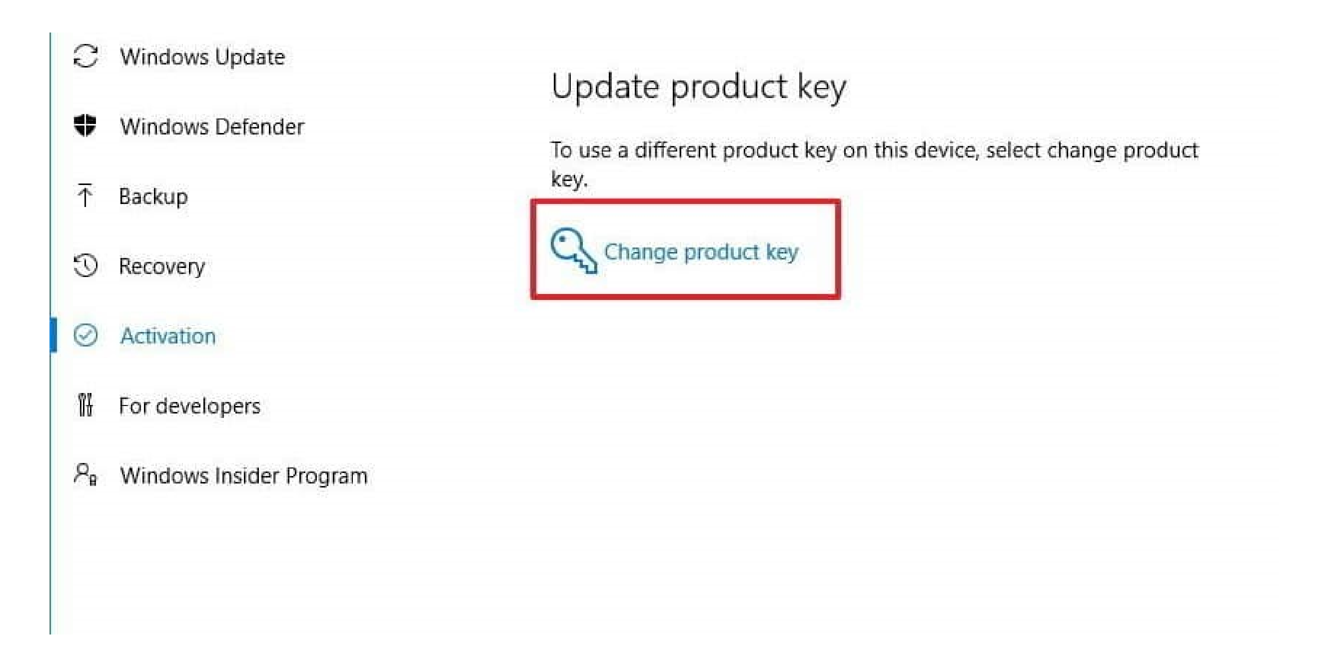
Wmic path softwarelicensingservice get OA3xOriginalProductKey

Step 3- After execution of the command, you will get the Product Key. Copy it somewhere else to be used in later steps and close the Command Prompt.

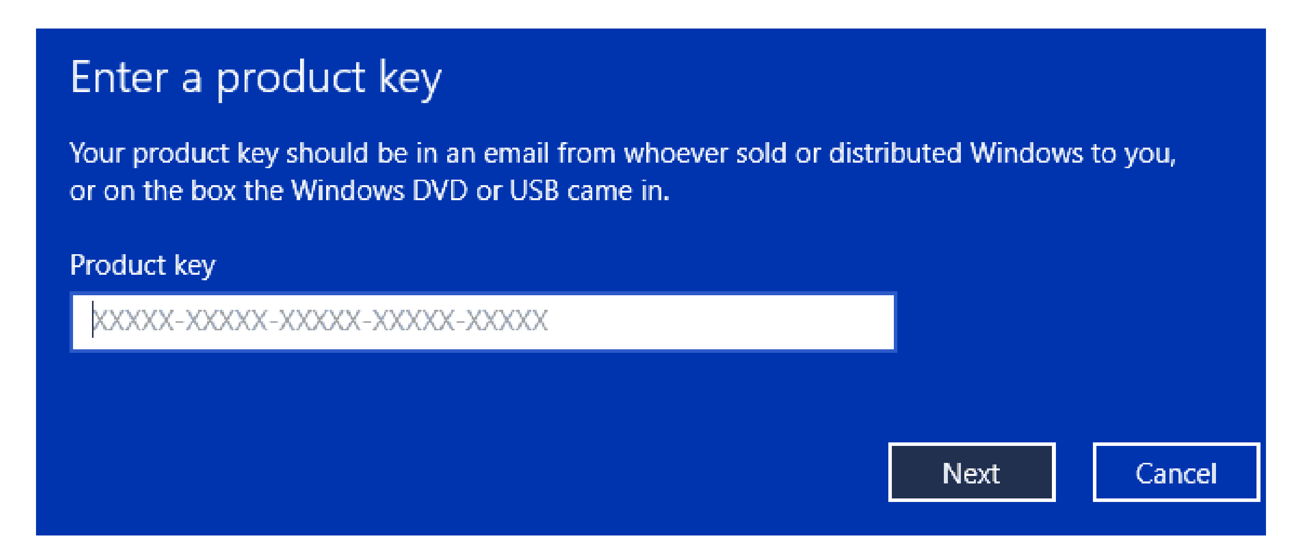
Step 4- Now open the Windows Settings app on your computer.

Step 5- Click on the "**Update & Security**" option. Next, you will find the Activation option on the left side of the screen. Click on it.

Step 6- Here, you need to click on the "**Change Product Key**" option. It is found in the centre of the screen.



Step 7- Now Paste the Product Key copied in Step 3 in the "**Enter a Product Key**" box. Click on **Next**.

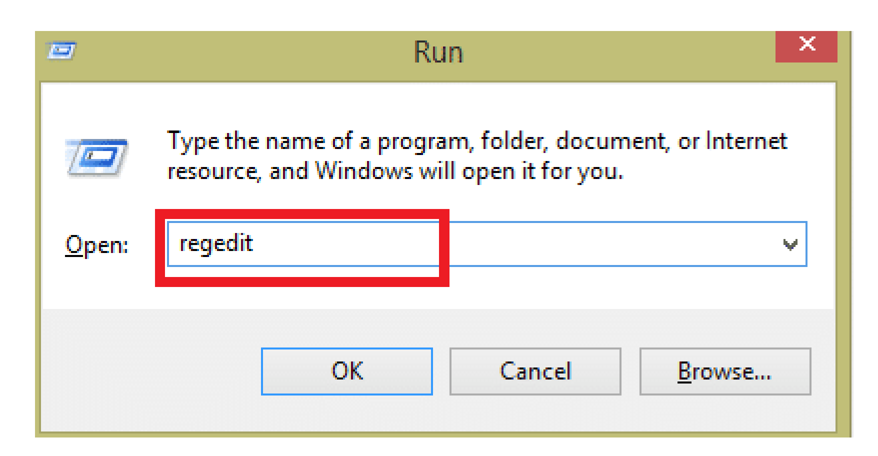


Method 6- Modifying The Registry.

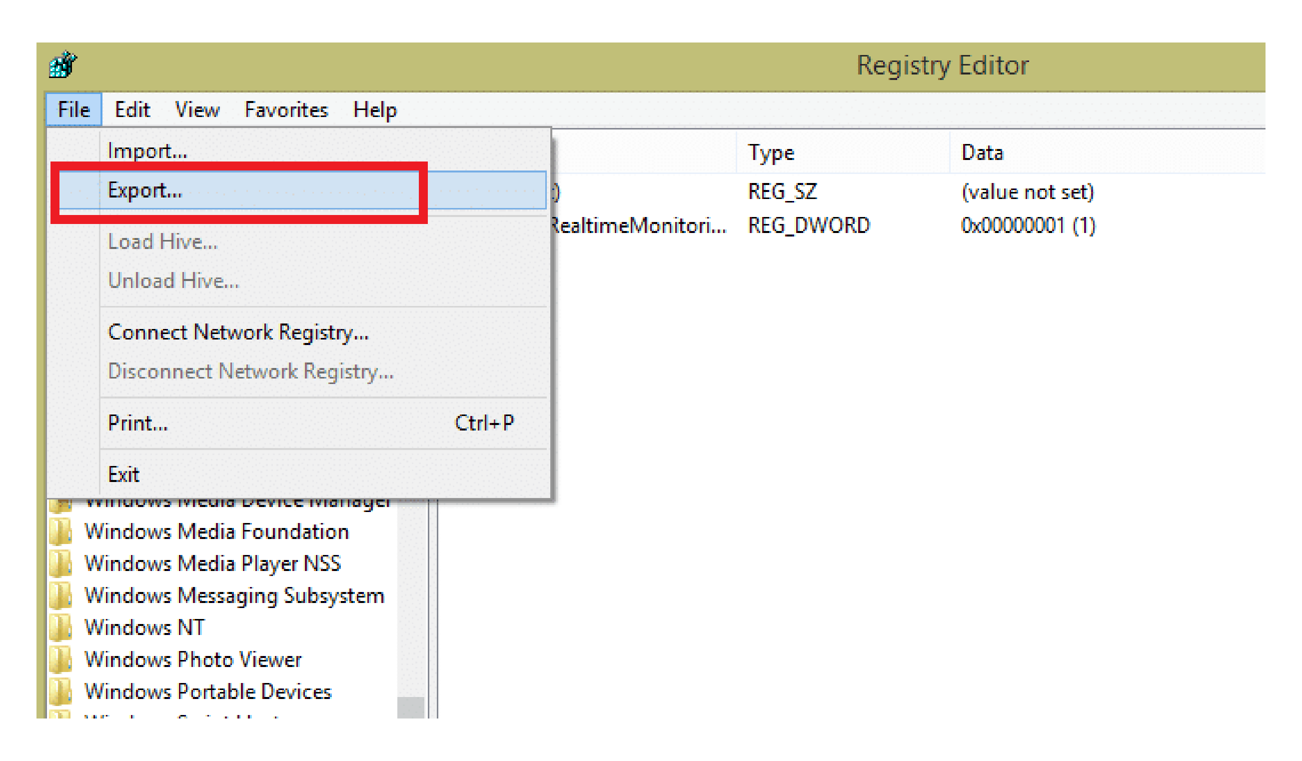
To fix the "Your Windows License will expire soon" error, you can use this method is to be used only if you have an original version of the Windows OS. Also making modifications to the registry is very risky behavior and unwanted or unnecessary changes in the registry will compromise your Windows operating system.

Step 1- Open the Run dialog box by pressing Windows + R.

Step 2- Type "**regedit**" and hit the Enter button. It will open the Registry Editor on your computer.



Step 3- Now click on File on the top-left corner of the Registry Editor window, then click on **Export**.



Step 4- Select the "**All**" option for the Export Range, choose the File name of Export then click on the Save button. This step is done if some unwanted situation happens then you can click on the saved Export file and restore the registry to its original state.

Export Registry File
Save in: Libraries
Recent places
Desktop
Libraries
This PC
Network
Documents
Library
Music
Library
Pictures
Library
Videos
Library
File name: reg_backup
Save as type: Registration Files (*.reg)
Save
Cancel
Export range
All
Selected branch
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows Defender\Real-Time Protection

Step 5- After finishing the Export process, Open the Command Prompt on your computer and execute the following command:

See also 8 Fixes For Facebook Gameroom Not Working In Windows

reg add "HKLM\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Windows NT\Current Version\Software Protection Platform"/ v NoGenticket /t REG_DWORD/d 1 /f

Step 6- Close the Command Prompt and restart your computer.

Method 7- Use The Windows Activation Troubleshoot

The Windows Activation Troubleshooter only works in Windows 10, version 1607 or later. The Activation Troubleshooter can help users detect and fix the problems regarding Activation such as the "Your Windows License will expire soon" error message, reactivate Windows 10 if any major change has been made to their system such as changing a Hardware component(Motherboard) or reinstalling Windows operating system.

Step 1- Open the Windows Settings on your computer.

Step 2- In the Settings Home Page, click on the "**Update & Security**" option.

Step 3- Now you can see numerous error messages with respect to Windows Activation. Click on the Activation option on the left side of the screen.

Step 4- The option of **Troubleshoot** can be seen on the bottom of the screen. Click on it and complete the process by following the corresponding instructions.

Method 8- Reset your Windows PC.

If any of the above methods don't work for your system, then Resetting the PC is the last option available to fix the "Your Windows License will expire soon" error. Before reinstalling Windows you need to backup your data to an external storage device.

Step 1- Open the Windows Settings app on your computer.

Step 2- Navigate to **Update & Security-> Recovery.**

Step 3- In the "**Reset this PC**" section click on the "**Get started**" option.

Step 4- Select your preferred choice from the two options: **Keep my files** and **Remove everything.**

Step 5- In the "**How do you like to reinstall Windows?**" page select either of two options "**Cloud download**" and "**Local reinstall**".

Step 6- Now preview the reinstallation settings that you have selected and click Next to proceed.

Step 7- Click on **Reset** to start the reinstallation process.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I Fix A Windows License That Will Expire Soon?

You can follow the following methods to fix the "Your Windows License will expire soon" problem:
Restart the Windows Explorer.

Reset the Windows Activation timer.
Disable the Windows License Management Service and Windows Update service.
Re-activate Windows Using Product Key.
Modifying the registry.
Use the Windows Activation troubleshooter.
Get the Windows License Key.
Reset your Windows PC.

What Will Happen If The Windows License Expires?

When the Windows License expires you will face a situation in which your system will reboot every 3 hours and any work or data that you have done on your computer in these 3 hours will be lost after reboot. Also 2 weeks after License expiration, Windows will stop booting altogether. In this situation, you need to purchase a brand new license and reinstall Windows.

Why Did The Windows License Expire?

The Windows License will expire because:
1. Due to Windows Update.
2. Limited or short License period.
3. Rejected License Key.